

# CA E-SCAN

CA Nova Scotia

*Strength beyond numbers*

March 2003

E-SCAN is a regular newsletter distributed electronically as a means of maintaining timely communication of, and encouraging a dialogue on, topics relevant to Chartered Accountants and students of the Nova Scotia Institute. Copies of recent issues can be obtained from the Institute web-site at [www.icans.ns.ca](http://www.icans.ns.ca).

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## 2003 Convocation — A Great Evening!!

The annual convocation dinner and dance is always one of the premiere events of the year, providing an opportunity for CAs, recent graduates, new FCAs, families and friends to enjoy themselves and renew acquaintances. This year was no different, as over 700 attendees enjoyed a great dinner, brief but essential formal presentations, another terrific speech by the top finalist (this year being Heather Jackson of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP), and then dancing until the early morning hours.

Despite a date change necessary to accommodate the ECMA awards, the Institute event was almost a victim of its own success, as the capacity of the room becomes an issue as registrations increase — this is of course a good thing, and Council is delighted for the members' interest.



*Blue Bay keeps things rockin' at the Convocation*

## H&R Block Launches Offensive Ad Campaign—and the Profession Swiftly Responds

Many of you may have seen national TV ads which are seen to be offensive and derogatory to CAs and other tax preparers. The ad style was clearly developed on a North American basis, as the same ads (with CPA references) and an even more offensive ad were also run in the U.S. Due to their national nature, the AICPA and CICA took swift action in contacting H&R Block and voicing the profession's displeasure. The more offensive ad has been pulled in the U.S., while it is not clear whether our measures will also see the ad telecast in Canada being pulled.

Some members have expressed their frustration at such advertising, pointing out that they have in fact referred business to H&R Block and seen the relationship as being complementary rather than competitive. While little other action can be taken, one communications consultant predicts that this type of ad is more vexative than effective "A soft drink competitor can make negative comments about Coke, but the viewers are sophisticated enough to recognize such claims for what they are".

A copy of the CA profession's response by David Smith, CICA President can be found on the CICA website at [www.cica.ca](http://www.cica.ca).

The website also provides contact information for members who wish to send their own messages to the advertiser.

## **STEP Seminar on Charities and Charitable Donations—Halifax and Moncton**

The Atlantic Branch of STEP (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners) is presenting a seminar in Halifax on Friday March 28 which may be of interest to not only STEP members but many CAs. A panel including Mr. Arthur Drache, an Ottawa-based lawyer and charities specialist, and Ms. Jane Waterfall, an officer at Policy and Communications Division, Charities Directorate of the CCRA will discuss current issues surrounding charities and planning such as :

- *New rules on "Split Receipting"*
- *New policy on annuity purchases*
- *Administrative requirements for becoming a registered charity*
- *Distinctions among public and private foundations and charitable organizations*
- *Ongoing compliance requirements and remedies for non-compliance*
- *Common problems that arise in relation to charitable donations made by will*
- *Techniques to maximize the benefit of a donation to a charity and to a donor*
- *How "art flips" and other valuation-based tax plans have affected administration in the area of charitable donations; proposed changes affecting donations as tax shelters*
- *CCRA consultations regarding political activities*

If more convenient, members may wish to register for an identical session being held on Thursday March 27 in Moncton.

More information, and registration forms, can be obtained by contacting Ruth March at KPMG LLP Halifax, by telephone (902) 492-6044 or by e-mail at [rmarch@kpmg.ca](mailto:rmarch@kpmg.ca).

## **Eldercare "Matures" to PrimePlus™ Services**

The CICA and AICPA recently announced that the "ElderCare Services" brand would be changed to PrimePlus Services. This decision was made to make it easier for clients to see the connection between the traditional services that CAs provide, and the new more global approach to the services that older clients need. New PrimePlus Practitioner's Packages are being offered to interested CAs for an annual \$99 fee which includes not only the materials but also access to a members-only discussion forum site which will be launched this spring. Further information is available from the CICA website or by contacting Karen Duggan CA directly at [Karen.Duggan@cica.ca](mailto:Karen.Duggan@cica.ca) or (416) 204-3238.

A copy of the current ElderCare (now PrimePlus) Member' Directory is available for reference at the ICANS office.

## **Congratulations to.....**

The Institute has been made aware that at least two of its members received the Golden Jubilee Medal of Queen Elizabeth II late in 2002. This medal, awarded by the Department of Canadian Heritage, is awarded to Canadians who "have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their community, or to Canada. Congratulations to **Robert E. Stafford CA** (Queen's County) and **George H. Durning CA** (New Glasgow) for receiving this honour.

## **Membership Changes**

**William J. Murphy CA** has been reinstated to membership effective February 17, 2003.

**Matthew K. Raymond CA** has been admitted to membership effective February 7, 2003 through affiliation with the Ontario Institute.

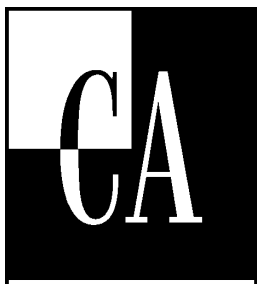
## **Here And There With Members**

**James A. Power CA**, formerly with ATI Consulting Corp, is now with Wallace Macdonald & Lively in Bedford.

**Brent P. Fletcher CA** is now Business Manager, Regional Operations, with Nova Scotia Power Inc. in Halifax.

## **Looking To Hire A CA? For A New Career?**

Consider posting your opportunity on the website as well. CAs can also post their availability for a reasonable fee as well. Check out the website for further details.



## At-a-glance

- ICANS was established in 1900 with just ten founding members. Today, our members number over 1,750, including students registered with the Atlantic School of Chartered Accountancy.
- The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, together with the provincial and territorial Institutes/Ordre, represents over 76,000 CAs and students in Canada and Bermuda.
- Research indicates that more than 50% of companies listed in the *Report on Business* ROB 1000 for the past several years have had at least one CA in the top five positions; CEO, President, CFO, COO or Corporate Secretary. Even more important is the contribution that CAs are making to their companies. ROB 1000 companies that had a CA as their top officer have consistently performed better.  
*Source: Multiple ROB 1000 Listings*

### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer for a few hours at a **Community Tax Clinic!** Contact Georgina Selig at the CCRA Tax Clinic Program at (902) 426-2710.

The Institute has received an urgent request from Adsum House. A woman in need requires immediate help in arranging her financial affairs in order to qualify for social assistance. If you would like to offer assistance, contact her social worker Lori Coles, BSW, SWC at [loricoles@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:loricoles@hfx.eastlink.ca) or 429-4443.

Other Volunteer Opportunities can be found on the ICANS website .

### Fee Statements Are In The Mail

Fee statements for the 2003-04 year have now been mailed to your address of record in our data base. If you do not receive your statement in the next 5-10 days, contact the Institute for an additional copy.

### Career Opportunities On The Website

Check the site for recent career postings which are added to the site on a weekly basis. Current postings are:

- CA Managers — Grant Thornton LLP, Calgary, Edmonton and Wetaskiwin, AB
- Senior Professional Accountant — Myers Norris & Penny, Peace River, AB
- Professional Accountants — Myers Norris & Penny, Humboldt and Melfort, SK
- Professional Accountant or Student — Belliveau Veinotte Inc., Shelburne and Barrington Passage
- Senior Accountants — Odell and Associates, Yellowknife
- HST Consultant— National consulting firm Vancouver
- Controller— ADESA Auctions Canada Corporation, Halifax
- Finance Manager— Municipality of The County of Colchester, Truro

### Reminder — Important Upcoming Dates

#### May 1, 2003

Deadline for payment of dues and filing of PD Reports

#### May 7, 2003

Deadline for registration for CFP Examination

#### May 23, 2003

Deadline for High School Scholarship Applications

#### June 7, 2003

CFP Examination

#### June 9, 2003

Annual Meeting and Golf Tournament

#### **Watch For — Spring PD**

*The Spring 2003 ICANS PD Catalogue will be mailed to all members and posted on the website in early April. Over 30 sessions have been scheduled to date, as well as the opportunity to participate in web-based and other forms of distance learning.*

**E-SCAN** is a monthly publication of the Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia, and is sent to members by e-mail.

Copies of current and past issues are available on the Institute's website at [www.icans.ns.ca](http://www.icans.ns.ca)

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